

# HOMELESSNESS FACT SHEET

## Cape Cod & the Islands

April 9, 2004

### HOMELESSNESS ON CAPE COD AND THE ISLANDS

The Cape Cod & the Islands Coordinating Council for the Homeless conducts an annual point-in-time count of the homeless.

- In 2004, 1,733 persons were counted as homeless:
  - 1,041 were individuals
    - 554 were in shelter, 296 were in motels and 191 were on the street
  - 692 were persons in families with children
    - 275 were in shelter, 164 were in motels and 253 were on the street
- In 2003, 1,763 persons were counted as homeless:
  - 1,110 were individuals
    - 428 were in shelter, 326 were in motels and 356 were on the street
  - 653 were persons in families with children
    - 348 were in shelter, 92 were in motels and 213 were on the street
- In 2002, 1,230 persons were counted as homeless:
  - 724 were individuals
    - 521 were in shelter and the remaining 203 were either in motels or on the street
  - 506 were persons in families with children
    - 356 were in shelter and the remaining 150 were either in motels or on the street

### NOAH SHELTER

This is a 50-bed emergency shelter for individuals:

- In 2003 NOAH saw 533 different individuals (379 were male and 154 were female), in comparison to 486 different individuals in 2002.
- Of the 533 individuals seen by NOAH in 2003, 258 came to NOAH for the first time: 77% were from Cape Cod and the Islands and 90% were from Massachusetts.
- Of the Cape Cod towns, Barnstable had the highest percentages of people at 32% of the total population: of the individuals from Barnstable, the vast majority gave Hyannis as their last address.
- All 15 Cape towns and both Islands were represented among the NOAH population.
- Many of the non-Cape residents came from the Southeastern Massachusetts communities (Brockton, Plymouth, Fall River, New Bedford, etc.).
- In 2003 the shelter averaged 60 people per night, an increase from 53 people per night in 2002.
- In 2003, the total number of nights spent at NOAH was 21,748, up from 19,491 in 2002.
- When the shelter is full to capacity homeless persons are either allowed in the foyer, allowed to sit-up inside the shelter, referred to the Overnights of Hospitality program, referred to the Pilot House, or turned away.
- In 2003, 154 women were served at NOAH, up from 108 women in 1998.

## **PILOT HOUSE**

Pilot House opened its door on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2003 as a community-based, locally funded collaborative project to stabilize the most marginalized homeless men and women in the community.

- This program is the result of a collaboration between the Town of Barnstable, Community Action Committee of Cape Cod and the Islands, Inc., Duffy Health Center and Housing Assistance Corporation.
- The goal of Pilot House is to stabilize men and women who cannot access other shelters as a result of mental health or substance abuse issues and improve their status so they can transition to more permanent housing while continuing to receive support services.
- Since its opening in January 2002, 130 chronically homeless adults have stayed at Pilot House and are working towards recovery and stability with clinical oversight and intensive case management.
- Within a one year period (January 22 to December 31, 2003) Pilot House provided 3,430 overnight stays to over 130 chronically homeless individuals.

## **OVERNIGHTS OF HOSPITALITY PROGRAM**

The Cape Cod Council of Churches and the Salvation Army jointly coordinate this program:

- Churches and Synagogues open their doors to a small group of homeless persons who need a warm, safe place to sleep.
- The “Overnights” program serves homeless people, thus lessening the amount of overcrowding at the NOAH Shelter.
- Around 30 religious organizations participate in the program, with two churches/synagogues providing shelter on any given night.
- Within just over a one-year period (October 2002 to early October 2003) this program has provided over 3,000 hospitality stays to homeless men and women.

## **COSTS OF SHELTERING THE HOMELESS VERSUS PREVENTION**

The cost-efficiency of preventing homeless is clear when comparing the following figures.

The cost efficiency of preventing **families** from becoming homeless is as follows:

- According to Housing Assistance Corporation, the average cost of sheltering a family (including services) ranges from \$23,490 for the least expensive shelter to \$54,000 for the most expensive shelter for women in recovery from substance abuse (based on calculating the average monthly costs of \$2,610 and \$6,000 respectively times the average length of stay of nine months).
- In comparison, Project Prevention, available countywide and coordinated by Housing Assistance Corporation spends, on average, \$1,333 per family for homelessness prevention.

The cost efficiency of preventing **individuals** from becoming homeless is as follows:

- According to NOAH, the average cost of sheltering a guest (including services) is \$1,845 (based on calculating \$45 per night times the average length of stay of 41 nights).
- In comparison, in 2003, the Barnstable Interfaith Council prevention program, coordinated by NOAH staff, assisted 78 individuals for an average of \$317.

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# ENDING HOMELESSNESS

## FACT SHEET

### **THE UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS (ICH)**

Philip F. Mangano, Executive Director, was appointed to lead the Council by President Bush in March, 2002. The Council, as part of the Domestic Policy Council within the Executive Office of the President, is responsible for coordination of 20 federal agencies in their response to reduce and end homelessness. The Interagency Council has been charged to implement President Bush's initiative to end chronic homelessness in 10 years.

**ICH has divided the country into 10 regions, each with its own coordinator. Region 1, New England, is coordinated by John O'Brien.** John reports that *50 major cities and counties across the country*, including in New England, have developed or are developing 10-year plans to end chronic homelessness. These include the four largest cities: *New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Philadelphia*. John also reports that one of the largest regional plans was developed by Maricopa County (the area around Phoenix) in which 25 cities came together to develop a plan. He also notes "At least 11 New England cities are moving forward on ten year plans, including Burlington, VT; Nashua and Manchester, NH; Providence, RI; Boston, Worcester, Springfield, Lowell and Quincy, MA and Bridgeport and New Haven, CT." John emphasizes the unique role the Cape and Islands plays in New England as one of its most prominent locales.

According to John O'Brien, the advantages of having a 10-year plan are as follows:

- The cities/counties have an immediate leadership role and voice as policies and funding priorities are being established in the upcoming year.
- Enhanced funding opportunities for cities and counties.
- Ensures an immediate, positive community response.

The following information is highlighted on the ICH website: Three New England Governors Signed Executive Orders Creating state Interagency Councils (New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts). The ICH also provides *The 10-year Planning Process to End Chronic Homelessness in Your Community: A Step-By Step Guide*.

### **GOVERNOR ROMNEY'S EXECUTIVE COMMISSION FOR HOMELESS SERVICES**

**COORDINATION** has compiled *Housing the Homeless: A More Effective Approach* Final Report, released in November 2003.

The Executive Summary lists the following five major themes emerging from the research:

1. The need to increase affordable housing for those with very low incomes
2. The need to focus more on prevention
3. The need to better coordinate services to the homeless population
4. The need to improve data collection, coordination and reporting
5. The need to establish a Massachusetts' Interagency Council on Homelessness and Housing.